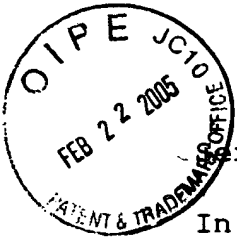


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/781,947

Confirmation No.: 9701

In re Application of

Chikao IKENAGA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2811

Filed: February 20, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE FABRICATING APPARATUS AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE FABRICATING METHOD

STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

It would be appreciated if you would indicate the status of the above-identified application below, including an indication as to when the next communication can be expected, and return this sheet to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

February 22, 2005
Date


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